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TAXPAYERS STORMING, ACCUSE ASSESSORS OF SHOWING PARTIALITY

Story Spreads That Favored One of Wilson Regime Didn't Suffer Valuation Raises While Humble Home Owners Have To Pay—Examination of Books Shows Remarkable Coincidence—Doors of Public Servants' Offices Slammed In Faces of Indignant Ones Seeking Explanation.

Following the storm of the City Hall yesterday by hosts of indignant taxpayers, and heated talk over the matter last night, the story spread about Bridgeport like wildfire today that the pets of the administration, the powers behind them, smaller officials and friends of the bosses, were the only ones spared, in the wholesale raising of tax rates.

A perusal of the tax books here and there gave at least partial foundation for this story. Companies and persons that had incurred the hate of the administration suffered enormous raises in valuations.

As a result, Alderman Daniel P. Harrigan, Eighth district Democratic leader and the man who has attempted, in the common council, to defend the people against the aggressions of the administration, was besieged by home owners.

They were wroth and following their conference, Alderman Harrigan declared it is likely a resolution will be introduced into the common council Monday evening calling for a commission of three of five well known real estate dealers to investigate the acts of the assessors.

There is also a movement in the works to organize a Rent Payers' league to oppose the increased assessments. This movement is based on the report that with the increase in valuation of house rent property, the landlords will seize the opportunity to increase rents, and house rents are now at a premium the highest ever known in a New England city the size of Bridgeport.

Only Thomas O'Brien of all the board was present today. Col. Julius Knowlton came in early in the morning but the press of indignant property owners became too strenuous for him and he speedily left the building and did not return. No word was received from President Hughes of the board or from William F. Russell, James Holt, who is being employed as an extra clerk, did his best to help out those who had been sent there, and the assessors promptly issued it to \$5,000, an increase of \$2,400.

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NEW ALMSHOUSE DONE; MONEY FOR FURNITURE ALL SPENT ON BUILDING

Board of Charities Has Building Completed, With Deficit of \$15,000, and No Money To Purchase Equipment For New Hill-side Home.

Seeks Funds To Buy Furnishings—Building Contains Many Novel Features, Including Provision For Aged Couples To Have Family Life.

Bridgeport's new almshouse, Hill-side Home, is virtually ready for occupancy, but there isn't any furniture in it.

Because there was urgent need for a new almshouse, a people of Bridgeport agreed to build one. The board of charities found that \$175,000 would construct the type of building desired in this city. At a special polling, the people voted to go into debt to this extent to provide for present needs.

Carelessness and extravagance with the city's funds followed. In the annual report of the charities department for 1915 it was recorded that there would be a deficit of \$15,899.49 actual construction.

This was blamed on the industrial depression that made it necessary for the city to put men to work. No mention was made of the fact that it would have been necessary anyway, to hire laborers and pay them standard wages. The idle citizens were obtained at low rates.

Besides this building deficit, there is a lack of money to pay for furniture, although the people provided for that in their bond issue. The board asked \$22,000 extra from the board of apportionment last year and the plea was rejected. It is likely the administration will try to push it through this year, however, by going over the board of apportionment's head, through the advisory board, and seeking a bond issue.

Besides this \$37,000 extortion, Bridgeport taxpayers have the knowledge that the Hill-side Home is not what it was planned to be when the \$175,000 was sought. Mayor Wilson and his trusty henchmen made some of the better features "look sick." Last summer, in an effort to stave off a deficit that might be as high as the bond issue.

The mayor suggested leaving off covering of the steel beams in some of the rooms. Chinders were substituted for reinforcement in some of the concrete work. An inferior grade

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CHIEF SMITH IS VINDICATED IN CONTEMPT CASE

Controversy Between New Haven Officials Is Brought To Close.

CHIEF HAD TAKEN ALL RESPONSIBILITY

Charges Made By Liquor Prosecutor Included 3 Other Officers.

New Haven, Jan. 29.—Chief of Police Philip Smith was declared not to be in contempt of court with criminal intent, this time at least, by Judge Hall, in the city court today as the result of a hearing conducted by City Attorney Moyle, into the controversy between Chief Smith and Liquor Prosecutor H. M. Dickerman, which had arisen over charges made by the latter that the chief's orders to members of his force operated to delay service of search warrants.

Three other officers were charged with the contempt of court by the chief but Chief Smith assumed all responsibility. Mr. Dickerman claimed that as he was an officer of the court a police officer was bound to obey the order of the court irrespective of any order the chief might have made as to procedure to be followed in serving warrants. The court upheld Mr. Dickerman that the liquor prosecutor was an officer of the court and a warrant issued by the court must be served by the police officer to whom it was given.

Recently, state policemen were brought here by Dickerman to see if the liquor laws are observed. It was reported that 32 search warrants were handed to officers who said they would have to ask the chief for instructions. Mr. Dickerman took up the matter with the chief who is said to have declared that warrants should be served through his office for various reasons, among which was that warrants sometimes were perfectly proper, and variety and were against places in which more than one family lives and as a protection to police officers in case of false arrests.

Mr. Dickerman formally complained to the court and this led to an inquiry by City Attorney Moyle and the hearing. Mr. Moyle quoted from the statutes to show what was said in them about search warrants. He added that he felt satisfied that Chief Smith had no intention of disobeying the court's orders but had believed his orders to subordinates that all business must be transacted through his office, which was perfectly proper. Mr. Moyle said he believed the court could overlook the matter this time. Mr. Moyle said that under the statutes a search warrant sworn to by the prosecutor and two other persons could be handed to a city policeman and it must be served. The warrant in the first place must be given for adequate cause.

Mr. Moyle said that Chief Smith and the other officers were perfectly frank in the matter as they had come into court to test the matter.

Chief Smith made a statement saying he was responsible to the city for the efficiency of his force. To obtain the highest efficiency he had to have the co-operation of the men under him. He had read the statutes to mean that when a warrant was handed to an officer it must be turned over to a superior officer for instructions, it oftentimes being better to have a warrant served by one man than another. The chief said that he had no intention of obstructing the law. The sergeants also complained of, adhered simply to his instructions governing the department.

Judge Hall said he was satisfied that there was no intent of contempt of court and he would overlook the matter this time but he wished to point out that the liquor prosecutor is an officer of the court and the medium through which a warrant in liquor cases is issued.

DENIES CHARGES THAT JOHN DYKE WAS NEGLECTED

Lakeview Home Inmate Died Natural Death, Says Superintendent.

Confined at Lakeview Home for three weeks and said to be suffering from kidney trouble, John Dyke, aged 42, was found dead in that institution this morning. Dyke has no relatives here except his father who is also an inmate of the home.

Friends of Dyke called at The Farmer office today and said that his death was due to gross negligence on the part of the attendants at the institution. Dr. J. J. McDonald, superintendent of Lakeview home denied this allegation and said that Dyke died in bed and not on the floor of his room as is alleged by friends of his.

Dr. McDonald said also that Dyke had received good treatment from the attendants at the home and that he died a victim of kidney trouble.

BOMB EXPLODES IN CLASSROOM; EIGHT ARE HURT

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 29.—A bomb exploded while a lecture was in progress at the military school here today, injuring eight persons, two seriously.

MOHR, IN LEER, DEFENDED SPOUSE AS 'GOOD WOMAN'

Writing About Secret Marriage Physicians Speaks In Wife's Behalf.

MRS. MOHR'S ORDEAL ON STAND IS ENDED

Completes Testimony After Three Days Under Cross-Examination.

Providence, Jan. 29.—Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr today on the witness stand ended her personal defense of the charge that she had hired three negroes to murder her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr.

For the greater part of three court days she faced friendly and unfriendly attorneys who drew from her every detail of her life with Dr. Mohr. Many of these details were given reluctantly. She never wavered in her declaration that she had nothing to do with the murder although she had objected strenuously to her husband's attentions to other women.

Testimony of Mrs. Mohr was regarded by the defense as the most important in the trial which stands adjourned until Monday.

A letter written by Dr. Mohr in March, 1908, was read to the jury as follows:

"I am rather surprised to hear from Elizabeth that you dolefully betrayed a trust and I dare believe her added falsehoods, both you and your wife. That was appalling. However, I am not in the muddling business but you must not say too much about Elizabeth or you will have to reckon with me. For myself as I said, I don't care what you think but don't think it too loud. Elizabeth, I find, had a perfect right to suppose she was married and I find now I am in error. I got my idea from the Maloney case in New York. Maloney who secretly married Osborne and had no record made of it. The courts held that that was not legal. However, they used assumed names. Religion mixed us all up and made us do as we did. We consulted an attorney this morning and find that the fact that the certificate was not recorded did not invalidate the transaction. I write this in defense of a good woman at present, although what I contend she admits and that is our present difference."

"What did your husband mean when he wrote 'I am not in the muddling business'?"

"He got more mud in his life than he threw." "No, sir. Not while he lived with me."

"What did your husband mean when he wrote 'I write in the defense of a good woman at present'?" Did he mean you were not a good woman before?" "No, sir. I was always a good girl and mother."

The admission that at the time the letter was written she was not living with her husband but was with her mother in Taunton.

"And your quarrel with your husband was the result of your admitting improper conduct?" "No, sir."

"Did you say that you had made a man of him and that everyone knew it?" "Yes, the doctor always said I made a man of him and he told hundreds about it."

"And his life right up to the end was the result of your handiwork?" "It was parted from him for two years before the end."

Thus completed Mrs. Mohr's testimony and she left the witness stand.

OFFERS NEARLY A MILLION FOR NEW YORK'S GARBAGE

New York, Jan. 29.—The war and the resultant demand for nitroglycerine are given as the reasons for a legal contest which has begun here for a contract to remove the garbage of New York city. Although the city has paid \$3,750,000 in 17 years for removal of its garbage, a company now offers the city \$900,000 for that privilege for five years.

Counsel for the new bidder explained why the garbage had suddenly become so valuable by saying that the garbage, after being treated with steam, yields a grease, the value of which at present, is high. From this grease, he said, comes glycerine from which is made nitro-glycerine.

INJURED IN AUTO CRASH, SHE SEEKS \$30,000 DAMAGES

Suit for treble damages amounting to \$30,000 has been filed against Benjamin DeKlyn, a wealthy Brooklyn resident, by Mary B. Fitch of Norwalk, who was seriously injured when her automobile collided with the DeKlyn machine August 25 last.

In papers filed today in the superior court the plaintiff states that on the date of the collision she was riding on the Boston post road. DeKlyn's machine, driven by chauffeur, approached from the opposite direction. The chauffeur did not avert enough for his course to allow the Fitch car to pass when it overturned. Seven of her ribs were broken, her skull was fractured and her arm injured. She claims to have spent \$1,000 for medical attendance. The action is returnable to the February term of court.

DAM BREAKS, WALL OF WATER THIRTY FEET HIGH CARRIES 50 CALIFORNIANS TO DEATH

NO TIME LIMIT PLACED FOR GERMAN ANSWER ON LUSITANIA SETTLEMENT

Washington, Jan. 29.—Secretary Lansing today denied published reports that the United States had given Germany until Feb. 5 to make a definite answer on whether it intends to disavow the sinking of the Lusitania.

At the state department it was declared that the Lusitania negotiations remain just where they stood early in the week, when Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, transmitted to Berlin a new draft of the proposed agreement which embraced all the points for which the United States contends.

There could be no new move, officials declared, until the German foreign office had passed upon the new draft. This draft was made by Count Von Bernstorff immediately after a conference with Secretary Lansing and is understood to provide that:

LAKE CO. PURCHASES MORE LAND TO MAKE YARDS AMONG BIGGEST

As a result of purchases just made, the Lake Torpedo Boat Co. now has one of the largest shipyard waterfront properties in the country. When dredging operations that are now being carried on, will make the Lake plant second to none in submarine building capacity.

The Lake Co. today filed a deed covering its purchase of about 20 lots of waterfront land at the foot of Eagle street and of Trowell street, from Jacob Borstelman of this city. The negotiations and sale took place at Los Angeles, Cal., between Mr. Borstelman and the company's general counsel, Fred Brown Whitney, an American international lawyer, of Washington, D. C.

The purchase of the Borstelman waterfront holdings gives the company two blocks of water front in addition to the half a dozen blocks it has acquired by its several purchases for its shipyard No. 2. The water front of the company's original No. 1 yard is about two blocks long.

The company is dredging a channel about 200 feet wide and more than 40 feet deep along its water front tract, No. 2, upon which it has erected a modern shipyard. Many acres of waterfront lands have been filled from

POLICE RESCUE COBBLER, PRONE AND FLAMES

Gorgas and Fox, Swathed in Blankets, Perform Act of Heroism.

Overcome by the fumes from an exploded oil stove, Antonio Crest, a cobbler of 2893 Fairfield avenue, lay unconscious on the floor of his cobbler shop at 10 o'clock this morning and the shop was a mass of flames when Detective-Sergeant George Fox and Detective Policeman Clifford N. Gorgas, attracted by the blaze coming from the door of the shop, ran to his rescue.

The policemen were passing the shop in the department automobile headed for Black Rock when Detective Fox noticed the shoemaker's shop burning. Stopping the automobile both rushed into the building and found Crest lying on the floor.

The policemen were repulsed by the flames at first, which singed their clothing. Policemen Gorgas ran back to the automobile and procured two heavy blankets, which they wrapped about their clothing. Then they rushed through the seething flames. Picking up the unconscious form of the shoe repairer, they carried him to the street where he was revived.

After the fire was extinguished, Gorgas and Fox procured two pairs and with these filled with water, they quenched the flames after fifteen minutes' work.

Gorgas and Fox will probably be called before the board of police commissioners at the meeting Monday evening and recommended for their heroic act in saving the cobbler's life.

CHIMNEY FIRE AT BISHOP HOME

A chimney fire broke out at the residence of Henry A. Bishop, president of the Connecticut National bank, at 179 Washington avenue, at 11:27 today. The blaze was extinguished by the use of chemicals and the damages were but trifling.

Eleven Billion Gallons of Water Released When Big Dam Goes Out, Inundating Area of More Than Fifteen Square Miles.

Property Damage Will Total Several Millions—Another Dam in Danger As Rescue Parties Start Out To Rescue Residents.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 29.—At least 50 lives were lost Thursday in a wall of water thirty feet high which swept down the Otay valley, according to an estimate made by the coroner early today.

When the lower dam of the southern California Mountain Water company broke late Thursday it released a flood of eleven billion gallons of water into the populous valley which lies just outside of here, devastating an area of 45 miles long and two miles wide. The property damage, it is believed, will reach \$1,000,000.

Another dam continues today near the breaking point, threatening additional ruin to the valley.

Scores of persons are reported missing and it is believed that a number of bodies were carried out to sea.

Rescue parties are striving to reach the scene, access to which is extremely difficult owing to swollen streams and the fact that all of the bridges between San Diego and the little valley have been carried away by the flood waters of the last two weeks.

One report stated that 25 Japanese, including men, women and children, were among the drowned.

Twenty-five farmhouses are known to have been carried away by the waters. The heavy rain during the last two days filled the lower Otay valley for the first time in its history. Realizing the dam was weakening under the great pressure of water, warning was sent to people in the valley to flee for their lives.

It was unheeded by many, according to reports here, the residents in the valley preferred to remain and endeavor to protect their property.

Although the emptied reservoir was the principal source of the San Diego City water supply, there was no danger of a water famine here, it was believed by officials, as there are other sources from which the city can draw an ample amount.

Telephone and telegraphic communication with the valley has been cut off since the gale and rainstorm swept this city early Thursday morning.

SNOW TIES UP RAILROAD. Durango, Colo., Jan. 29.—Railroad traffic in this part of the state is almost at a standstill today owing to the heavy snowfall which, it is said, is the greatest since 1884.

As a result of the high temperature, prevailing, many snowslides have occurred. Nine buildings have been destroyed in the Silverton district by avalanches. No lives were reported lost.

DAMAGE MANY MILLIONS. San Francisco, Jan. 29.—The storm, that has raged over the entire Pacific coast since early Thursday has claimed a toll of not less than 50 lives and caused property damage amounting to millions of dollars, according to reports thus far received.

The greatest loss of life, about 50, occurred in the Otay valley, south of San Diego, when the lower dam of the California Mountain Water Co. broke Thursday afternoon.

Just outside the Golden Gate eight lives were lost yesterday when the garbage carrier Aberdeen, of Oakland, Cal., was wrecked.

Flood waters and high winds did much damage in various parts of the state. The oil districts in particular have suffered severely.

Montana last night shivered in what is said to be the worst storm in 20 years, with the thermometer ranging from 20 to 54 below zero.

Flood conditions prevailed in Arizona. River water is rising, as flood waters of the Santa Ana river washed out 600 feet of the water mains carrying the city's supply.

The storm today is gradually moving eastward.

FISHMAN GETS BONDS. Edward Fishman, who was bound over to the criminal superior court from the city court yesterday on the charge of receiving stolen goods, was released in bonds of \$500 this morning.

Joseph Dulbis was brought to the superior court as bondsmen by Attorney Samuel Reich. Fishman's counsel, Fishman is said to have received goods taken by Philip Holzman from a local department store.